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ABSTRACT

This book brings together ideas from different disciplines, mainly anthropology and psychology, to help understand the culture of adolescent risk-taking. It compares adolescent risk-taking to play, structured experience, and narrative. Several themes are developed, all of which hover around characterizing the relationship between persons and culture, a task made more interesting and difficult by the need to navigate through those levels at which the relationship is manifested. Adolescents' risks tell something not only about how teenagers understand risk types and group types, but how they understand themselves in relation to their friends, in relation to their parents and teachers, and also in relation to culture in the broadest sense. Teenagers are expected to take risks and that risks are relevant to intergroup dynamics. Chapters include: (1) "Introduction"; (2) "The History of Our Ambivalence"; (3) "The Interpretive Turn"; (4) "Play as Interpretive Activity"; (5) "Adolescent Risk-Taking as Transformative Experience"; (6) "Risk-Taking and the Architecture of Adolescent Society"; and (7) "Pursuing Depth." (MKA)

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